BERNICIA



Keep your home free from pests

Simple steps to protect your home, your health and your family.

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If you find pests

Pests can be unpleasant, cause damage to your home and affect your health and wellbeing.

There are simple things we can all do to help prevent them.

Common pests and signs to look for

The pests most commonly found in homes include:

- **Rats and mice** can get in through gaps in walls, floors, doors, and pipes. They may leave droppings, gnaw marks or scratching noises
- **Cockroaches** look for food, water, and warm places. You may see them in kitchens, bathrooms or around cupboards and appliances
- **Bedbugs** are small insects that hide in mattresses, bed frames, and furniture. They can spread through infested furniture, bedding, and luggage
- **Fleas** can enter your home on pets or through contact with infested animals or environments
- **Flies and other insects** are attracted to uncovered food, overflowing bins, food waste and other unclean areas

Tell us early

Tell us as soon as possible if you see pests or signs of pests in or around your home. An infestation is when a large number of pests are present.

How can I prevent pests in my home?

Keeping your home clean makes it harder for pests to find food and water.

Please:

- Put household rubbish in the correct bin
- Keep bin lids closed
- Use food waste bins where provided
- Tie rubbish bags securely before putting them in the bin
- Take rubbish out regularly. Do not let it build up inside your home
- Put bins out on the correct collection day. Return them to the storage area afterwards
- Do not leave rubbish bags next to bins unless your local arrangements specifically allow this
- Report overflowing communal bins, damaged bin lids or missed collections to your local council

Bulky items

Arrange a bulky waste collection for large items. Do not leave them in shared area's.

Help us keep shared areas clean, safe and free from pests

Check items before bringing them home

- Some pests can be brought into the home accidentally
- Check second-hand furniture and mattresses carefully before bringing them inside
- Check your luggage for bedbugs when returning from trips
- Check pet bedding and sleeping areas regularly for signs of fleas
- Ask for advice if you suspect that furniture, bedding or other items may be infested

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